

02/21/25

## Free Talk

4 semesters each year

Interculture 跨文化

\*相互理解、适应和对话，但各自的文化身份仍然保持独立

Transculture 超文化 / 文化跨越

\*强调文化融合 (cultural fusion) 和文化的重新创造

## Homework Analysis - Writing

The Unifying Power of Music Across Cultures and Generations

Music is a universal language that has been part of human life for a long time. Every culture has its own style, and people of all ages <sup>appreciate</sup> enjoy <sup>指代不够明确</sup> it. Thanks <sup>their musical traditions</sup> to modern technology, different kinds of music <sup>can be easily accessed</sup> are easy to find. <sup>Therefore,</sup> So I believe <sup>brings/unites people across different background</sup> ~~music~~ music brings people together. <sup>Very Good Point! But can be more specific => music transcends language barriers and can be understood without words.</sup> (One reason is that it ~~doesn't~~ does not need words to be understood.) A good tune or beat can <sup>evokes emotional connection</sup> create feelings, even if people do not speak the same language. For example, many <sup>people</sup> enjoy Latin or Korean music without <sup>understanding => 知道歌词也可以理解情感</sup> knowing the lyrics. The music itself makes a connection, <sup>playing a role as a bridge/serving as a bridge</sup> acting as a bridge between cultures. <sup>Further more/Moreover,</sup> Also, music is played at global events <sup>such as !!!</sup> like the Olympics or charity concerts, where people from different <sup>Just "places" ?? backgrounds</sup> places come together. <sup>Good Point as well !!!</sup> (Another reason is that music helps different generations bond.) Even though older and younger <sup>Some songs transcend age and loved by all</sup> people may like different music, some songs are loved by everyone. Families ~~of~~ often listen to music together, creating happy memories. Concerts and music festivals

<sup>attract audiences</sup> bring people of all ages to enjoy live music, helping <sup>very nice!</sup> them feel <sup>but</sup> part of a community. <sup>⇒ fostering a sense of community ⇒ a sense of...</sup> Also, old songs are <sup>Moreover,</sup> often sung again in new versions, <sup>allowing</sup> so younger people <sup>classical</sup> can connect with older ones through familiar <sup>melodies</sup> music.

<sup>sum up</sup> ~~In the end~~, music <sup>Nice!</sup> <sup>serves as a powerful uniting force</sup> is a strong way to bring people together. It helps us understand and <sup>appreciate</sup> enjoy <sup>experiences</sup> different cultures, and it connects generations through shared moments. <sup>Regardless of</sup> No matter ~~our~~ background or age, music has the power to unite us.

## Introduction

1 → Every culture has its own style, and people of all ages enjoy it. → and people of all ages enjoy their musical traditions.

“it” 会引起歧义，需要写出指代的内容

2 → ... different kinds of music are easy to find, so I believe music brings people together. → ... different kinds of music can be easily accessed, so I believe music brings/unites people across different backgrounds.

“people” 指的是哪些人呢?

3 → So → Therefore / So that / Thus

## Body Paragraph 1

1 → One reason is that it does not need words to be understood. → One reason is that music transcends language barriers and can be understood

without words.

描述不够具体，而且第二段开头句用“it”指的是什么？

2 → can create feelings → can evoke emotional connection

3 → For example, many enjoy Latin or Korean music without knowing the lyrics. → many enjoy Latin or Korean music without **understanding** the lyrics.

不知道歌词也能听呀，最重要的是理解歌词的含义

4 → ..., acting as a bridge between cultures. → playing a role as a bridge/serving as a bridge between cultures.

“acting”语法正确，但是“serve as”更倾向于表示一个事物的功能或作用

5 → Also, ... → Furthermore/Moreover, ...

表达太口语了！！！！

6 → like → such as

也是非常口语了

7 → ... where people from different places come together. → ... where people from different backgrounds come together.

话题讨论的核心是“不同背景/语言/文化的人因为音乐走到了一起”

## Body Paragraph 2

1 → ... some songs are loved by everyone. → some songs transcend age and are loved by all.

还是不够具体，怎么可以体现出岁数差别和代沟，并且音乐一定程度

上减小了代沟呢?

2 → ... concert, music festivals bring people of all ages to enjoy live music... → ... concert, music festivals attract audiences of all ages to enjoy live music...

3 → ...helping them feel part of a community. → fostering a sense of community.

之前课上学习了“xxx 感”怎么说来着? → 责任感、安全感、成就感

## Conclusion

1 → ... music is a strong way to bring ... → serves as a powerful unifying force

2 → No matter our background or age... → Regardless of our background or age, ...

这也很口语了!

3 → In sum up → To sum up...



## Poem

### Living Space

By Imtiaz Dharker

There are just not enough <b>straight lines</b> . That is the problem. Nothing is <b>flat</b> or <b>parallel</b> . Beams balance <b>crookedly</b> on supports thrust off the vertical. Nails <b>clutch</b> at open seams. The whole structure <b>leans dangerously</b> towards the <b>miraculous</b> . Into this rough frame,	someone has <b>squeezed</b> <b>a living space</b> and even dared to place these <b>eggs</b> in a wire basket, fragile curves of white hung out over the dark edge of a slanted universe, gathering <b>the light</b> into themselves, as if they were the <b>bright, thin walls</b> of <b>faith</b> .
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#### 1. no straight lines/not flat/parallel/crookedly (Imagery)

这是简陋的木屋或棚屋，不可能是水泥屋。→ 贫穷的象征

这不仅表明物理上的贫困，还象征着生活的脆弱和社会的不公平。

#### 2. clutch (Personification)

抓紧、攥住：一个带有紧迫感的动词 → 好像不知道哪一秒，就会撑不住，坍塌了

#### 3. leans dangerously + miraculous (Personification)

Lean → 倾斜，说明屋子已经破破烂烂了，像被日晒雨淋后没有修的样子

Miraculous → 但是还没烂到住不了人。房子在挣扎，人们也在努力生存。住在这里的人们的韧性——即使生活环境极端不利，他们仍然

坚持下去，创造出自己的“奇迹”

#### 4. squeezed a living space / the light / bright

人都基本没地方住了，还给鸡蛋让位 → 民以食为天，但是鸡蛋也不是昂贵的食物

鸡蛋意味着“新生命” → 虽然环境不咋地，但是人还是要抱有希望的

#### 5. the bright, thin walls of faith

希望有了，但是因为贫穷，希望终究是渺茫的 (thin walls)

Nails clutch at open seams. *I have the same feeling too!*

Personification

KW: Nails clutch

The nails are <sup>personified</sup> described as if they are holding on tightly, like a person <sup>clinging to survive</sup>. This shows how weak and unstable the house is, reflecting the unsafe conditions of poverty. *... suggests that the structure is fragile and barely holding together, mirroring the unsafe and insecure living conditions faced by people in poverty.*

Someone has squeezed a living space

metaphor

KW: squeezed

*the word "squeezed" means small and cramped. The word "squeezed" suggests there is barely enough space to live, highlighting the struggle of poverty. their lack of proper housing and basic necessities.* *解释过于简单*

Fragile curves of white hung over the dark edge of a ~~so~~ slanted universe

Imagery and metaphor

KW: fragile curves of white "dark edge" "slanted universe"

The "Fragile curves of white" likely refer to eggs symbolizing <sup>or "vulnerability"?</sup> weakness and survival. <sup>in harsh environment</sup> The "dark edge" and "slanted universe" suggest a world that is <sup>depress</sup> unsteady and ~~long~~ dangerous, showing how difficult life is for ~~the~~ the poor.



### **Unstable structure:**

“There are just not enough straight lines. That is the problem.” + “balance crookedly on supports thrust off the vertical.”

The lack of order and balance → the precarious nature of the space and, metaphorically, the lives of those living there.

### **Nails, seams, and danger:**

“Nails clutch at open seams.”

The house is fragile and barely holding together →

\*The sense of struggle

\*An image of a home that is on the edge of collapse

### **Eggs and light as symbols of hope:**

“someone has squeezed a living space and even dared to place these eggs in a wire basket.”

\*The eggs → A striking contrast

\*Eggs: fragile + symbolic of life and potential

\*The resilience of people living in harsh conditions.

“gathering the light into themselves”

\*Light → hope → even in the darkest places, faith and optimism are still there.

## Background Practicing

*Some people think that competition at work, at school and in daily life is a good thing. Others believe that we should try to cooperate more, rather than competing against each other.*

*Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.*

Nowadays, people are living in a highly competitive society/world. They often face many challenges to choose whether they should compete with others or cooperate in harmonious relationship.

**Or**

In modern society, competition plays a crucial role in various aspects of life, including education, the workplace, and personal interactions. While some argue that ..., others believe that ... This essay will ...

*In many countries nowadays, consumers can go to a supermarket and buy food produced all over the world.*

*Do you think this is a positive or negative development?*

With the rapid advancement of globalization, **people can buy global products in supermarkets**. (→People have access to a wide range of food from different countries.)

**Or**

With the rapid advancement of globalization, consumers today have greater access to a diverse selection of food from different parts of the world. Supermarkets now offer ... **While** some view this as ..., **others** argue that ... This essay will ...

## New Writing Task - In-class Practising

Write about the following topic:

Living in a country where you have to speak a foreign language can cause serious social problems, as well as practical problems.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 180 words.

.....

### Introduction:

Nowadays, when people are living in a foreign countries, language barriers might lead to serious social problems and practical problems. For that, I agree with this statement.

### Body Paragraph 1:

Language barriers can lead to serious social problems, making it difficult for individuals to integrate into society. → English is not a common language for everyone. (→English is not universally spoken by all individuals.)

### Body Paragraph 2:

Besides social issues, language barriers also create significant practical challenges in everyday life.

**Thoughts: Essential service / job market...**

visiting a doctor / using public transportation / dealing with financial transactions / dealing with paperwork...

**Conclusion:**

...



## Homework - OPINION ESSAY

On page 11!!

Remember:

**\*Background**

**\*More academic words:**

So → Therefore/Thus/As such/...

Also → Moreover/Furthermore/In addition/Additionally/What is more...

Like → such as